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EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines

Wednesday, May 23, 2014

*** DAILY HOT LIST ***

Baltimore, other big cities back EPA in Bay cleanup dispute

BALTIMORE SUN Baltimore has joined with other major U.S. cities in defending the federal government's authority to impose a "pollution diet" on the Chesapeake Bay. New York City, with sign-ons from Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and San Francisco, filed a "friend-of-the-court" brief Monday in federal appeals court in a case challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's imposition of bay cleanup goals on Maryland and the other five states in the Chesapeake watershed. Agriculture and building industry groups are appealing a lower court's ruling last year upholding EPA's actions in seeking to restore the bay. They argue the agency has exceeded its legal authority in trying to make states curb farm and development runoff. The agency in 2010 adopted a "total maximum daily load" limiting pollution of the Chesapeake, ordering Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Delaware to join in reducing the amount of nutrients and sediment flowing into the bay from sewage plants, farms and city and suburban streets. EPA has called it the largest and most complex such cleanup plan it's ever developed. Industry groups contend that by setting pollution reduction targets for each state, the federal government has intruded into land use decisions that are the province of state or local governments. They warn the plan could potentially harm sectors of the U.S. economy. Attorneys general for 21 states, from Alaska to Florida, have sided with the industry groups, fearing that EPA could step in and order similarly sweeping cleanups of other waterways. The biggest of those is the Mississippi River basin, which drains parts or all of 31 states - including western Maryland. The river and its tributaries flush enough farm fertilizer and other waste into the Gulf of Mexico to create a massive "dead zone" there that dwarfs the one that besets the Chesapeake every summer. Lawyers for the cities counter that unless EPA can require cleanup from all sources of water pollution, including storm runoff from farmland and development, the burden will fall disproportionately on sewage plants run by municipalities and other facilities that are directly regulated via discharge permits. According to EPA, agriculture runoff remains a leading source of the bay's nutrient and sediment pollution; urban and suburban runoff, though a smaller contributor, is growing as development spreads. Environmental groups, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, some local governments and groups representing operators of municipal sewage plants also have filed briefs supporting EPA.

Coal ash spill effects not yet known

DANVILLE REGISTER AND BEE DANVILLE — It's too soon to gauge the long-term effects of the Feb. 2 coal ash spill on fish in the Dan River, said Virginia and North Carolina regulatory officials during presentations Monday afternoon. Since the incident at Duke Energy's old Dan River Steam Station in Eden, N.C., occurred in the winter — when there was little biological activity by fish in the Dan River — there was no way for monitoring immediately after the incident to pick up trace-element effects in the river's fish, said John Kennedy, director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Ecology and Infrastructure. The VDEQ plans to conduct long-term monitoring of fish tissue at eight locations along the Dan River over the next three to five years, June through August, Kennedy said. Kennedy and Dianne Reid, water sciences section chief with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Water Resources, gave brief presentations during a meeting of the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission. The meeting was held at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. "We'll wait until [feeding activity] picks up in a warmer season of the year," Kennedy said during an interview after the presentations. There was little biological activity — such as foraging, bottom feeding and predators feeding — among fish in the cold months when the spill happened, Kennedy said. Reid, during her presentation, said it was too soon to determine the spill's effects on fish. The VDEQ collected water and sediment samples on Feb. 11 — nine days after the coal ash spill that spewed 39,000 tons of the toxic brew into the Dan River — at four sites along the river, Kennedy said. The department analyzed water samples for 23 metals and those levels did not exceed Virginia water quality standards, he said during the presentation. This content was contributed by a user of the site. If you believe this content may be in violation of the terms of use, you may report it as abuse of the site.

Earth Day marked in Delaware by new calls to action

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL Events ranged from new trails in Sussex County to speeches at Rodney Square in Wilmington. Delaware marked the 45th Earth Day in dozens of ways and places Tuesday, from walking trails in Sussex County to a tree planting near a river cleanup site in Dover to speeches at Rodney Square in Wilmington. "We have a lot to be proud of," Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary Collin P. O'Mara said in Wilmington, during a program hosted by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. "We've cleaned up power plants, we've reduced emissions, but we still have air that's not healthy to breathe on many days." Earth Day, part of a global environmental movement, was first marked in the United States in 1970 and grew out of public outrage and alarm over acid rain, dense smog, habitat losses, pesticide poisonings and pollution so severe that floating fires became common along the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio... Shawn M. Garvin, a Wilmington resident and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator for the five-state Philadelphia region, said the threat of global warming and pollution-driven climate change has created a need for public awareness and action broader than the Earth Day teach-ins of 1970, and the years of environmental reforms and cleanups that followed. "It's at least evolving to the point where many more people agree that something's going on with the Earth's climate. Now it's the battle of how is it caused and what are we going to do about it," Garvin said, adding that threats posed by global warming are alarming, and require urgent action.

Wilmington celebrates 44th annual Earth Day

WHYY NEWSWORKS Earth Day is April 22, but environmental activists and officials want to see earth-friendly activities observed year-round. On Tuesday, Jennifer Adkins, executive director of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, recognized the many accomplishments made since the first Earth Day 44 years ago. In 1970, Earth Day was created to bring attention to the idea of environmental reform, with the hope of applying scientific advancements to improve management of the environment and changing the relationship between humans and their environment. Since then, the impact has been a change in the public's awareness of their environment, the creation of organizations who advocate for environmentally-sound practices and policies and the implementation of these ideas. "In hindsight, this makes a lot of sense, but it was a big change," Adkins said. "Like any meaningful change, it takes time." Much accomplished, much to do. Adkins explained that for the changes to be implemented, time was needed for the study of ecological systems, for research and development to be initiated, and for the application of reworked infrastructure. The good news: To some degree, it worked. Rivers are cleaner, aquatic species are again inhabiting local water bodies, and riverfronts are being reclaimed for recreation and development. "We began using what we were learning to introduce people to new ideas for how they can be good stewards of land and water," she said. But, of course, their work is far from over. DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara noted that 86 percent of Delaware waterways are not safe for swimming. As some suggested on Tuesday, the most challenging work lies ahead. "We've picked the low-hanging fruit," observed Shawn Garvin, regional administrator for the EPA. The most obvious sources of pollution are being addressed, which makes current concerns – contaminated soil, airborne pollutants and runoff from paved surfaces – more vexing. In addition, Garvin described climate change and carbon emissions as being high on his watch list.

Sunoco project sparks concern among West Goshen

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES WEST GOSHEN — Sunoco Pipeline representatives were bombarded with questions and criticisms from a packed room Tuesday night during a public forum hosted by West Goshen. The two-hour forum, held at West Chester East High School began with Sunoco representatives providing a presentation on its Mariner East project and pump station on Boot Road. Following the presentation, residents were able to ask questions for the remaining time. Sunoco's Mariner East Project pipeline and facilities have brought criticism and complaints from residents and local officials who say that the pipeline, and related above-ground facilities, will cause harm to the environment and raise safety concerns for those living in proximity to these pipelines. During Sunoco's presentation, representatives spoke about safety concerns and said they wanted to answer misconceptions about both the Mariner East Project and the Boot Road Pump Station. "The safe operation of the pipeline is, for us, the most important thing," said Charlie Stewart, director for pipeline operations for the Philadelphia area. According to Hank Alexander, vice president of business operations, the company has redesigned its pump station combustion flare from 34 feet to 30 feet to meet zoning code of West Goshen. He added that the combustion tower is safe and regulated, and will not produce visible emissions. "We remain committed to being a good neighbor," Alexander said. There were more than 10 representatives at the meeting to discuss the project. However, President of Sunoco Logistics Michael Hennigan — who is also a West Goshen resident — was unable to attend because of a previously scheduled board of directors meeting, according to Sunoco spokesperson

Jeff Shields.

Backing the Bay

FREDERICKSBURG FREELANCE STAR ATTORNEY GENERAL Mark Herring has put Virginia on the side of the Chesapeake Bay's true defenders, filing an amicus curiae, or friend-of-the-court, brief in support of the EPA's "pollution diet"--the agency's prescription for returning the bay to good health. If the term "amicus curiae" sounds familiar, it's because another one was filed a couple of months ago, by the attorneys general for 21 states near and far, who take issue with the EPA program. Why? Not because of any particular interest in the bay's situation, but because if the plan actually works, they fear the EPA could show up with a similar plan targeting pollution in their jurisdictions. So they're out to nip that in the bud. All these briefs are being attached to a lawsuit filed by the American Farm Bureau and others challenging the EPA plan, which sets total daily maximum loads, or TDMLs, for sediment and nutrient pollution entering the bay. A U.S. District Court judge ruled in favor of the EPA last fall, calling the plan justified under the Clean Water Act of 1972. The AFB and its cohorts promptly appealed to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. Mr. Herring's brief helps put the entire bay cleanup saga in perspective, explaining how Virginia and the Chesapeake are intertwined economically, environmentally, culturally and historically. Herring puts the bay's commercial and recreational fishing value to Virginia at \$3.6 billion and 54,000 jobs, plus another \$680 million realized in pure tourism. Mr. Herring also let it be known that the previous administration's opinion of the EPA no longer applies in Virginia. Though it continued to provide state cleanup funding, the McDonnell administration was no advocate of EPA regulatory powers, preferring the status quo voluntary technique that has left the cleanup effort treading water for the past 30 years._

Both sides debate drilling at Deer Lakes Park

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE Allegheny County residents dominated another meeting of county council Tuesday night as many spoke for and against a plan to drill for natural gas underneath Deer Lakes Park. More than 40 people spoke, with about equal amounts on both sides of the plan proposed last month by county Executive Rich Fitzgerald. Many of the speakers, members of Protect Our Parks, have been wearing green scarves to council meetings for months, and on Earth Day the accessory was the same and so was the message. "Local government doesn't belong in the fracking business because it needs to protect its residents from the fracking business," said John Detwiler of Squirrel Hill. Michael Simms of Mount Washington asked council members to consider the impact of natural gas development on the environment. "Do we really want to turn back the clock to a time when the air was unbreathable and the water undrinkable?" he said. The topic was one that has received many hours of discussion in recent weeks. Mr. Fitzgerald has proposed a non-surface lease for Range Resources to drill for natural gas beneath the park -- 1,180 acres in West Deer and Frazer. Range Resources and Huntley & Huntley would pay the county a \$4.7 million bonus, plus \$3 million to a parks improvement fund and 18 percent in royalties. County council is considering an ordinance to lease the county's mineral rights beneath the park. Many speakers Tuesday night spoke in favor of the plan. John Graf, owner of The Priory, said he supported it, citing what he said was an uptick for the hospitality and restaurant industry in recent years. "A lot of this is due to increased

economic activity due to the Marcellus Shale drilling," he said. State Rep. Bill Kortz, a Dravosburg Democrat, also voiced his support for a lease that he said goes "above and beyond."

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

250 grill Sunoco on pumping-station plan WEST GOSHEN Angry and frustrated residents peppered Sunoco Logistics with questions at a public forum Tuesday in West Goshen Township that Sunoco said it organized in an effort to alleviate residents' concerns and "dispel misinformation" about its proposed pumping station. More than 250 residents came to the question-and-answer forum at West Chester East High School, where Sunoco filled two tables with handouts detailing its projects and safety information. Residents asked Sunoco about environmental effects, safety measures, worst-case scenarios, and contact numbers. Sunoco called the forum to teach residents about how it operates and clarify its plans, said Jeff Shields, a spokesman. "We wanted to set the record straight," Shields said. Eleven Sunoco representatives answered questions. Allen Feinberg got loud applause when he expressed frustration with getting correct information. "Why should we have faith in what you're telling us?" Feinberg said. Hank Alexander, Sunoco's vice president of business development, acknowledged residents' concerns. "We recognize there's been a lot of angst and a lack of information that's been presented," he said. "We apologize for that." Under its proposal, Sunoco would upgrade a pumping station at Route 202 and Boot Road. The site sits along a motor-fuel pipeline that runs under West Goshen. Sunoco is refurbishing the pipeline so it can transport fuel from the Marcellus Shale as part of its Mariner East project. Sunoco also plans to build a new pipeline.

PUC hearing to promote energy-efficient power The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission will hold a hearing May 5 at Drexel University on the use of combined heat and power (CHP), a high-efficiency method of generating electricity and thermal energy from a single fuel source. CHP systems, which are used by businesses like hotels, universities and hospitals, generate about 2,638 megawatts or 7.2 percent of Pennsylvania's total electricity. The PUC says the technical potential for additional systems could quadruple that production. The hearing from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the A.J. Drexel Picture Gallery, in the university's Main Building at 3141 Chestnut St., will include discussions by experts, vendors and representatives of local natural gas utilities.

State of Center City: Signs of distress Center City, Philadelphia's engine for growth for the last decade or more, is showing signs of distress, according to statistics compiled by the Center City District for its annual "State of Center City" report. From office rental rates to visits to tourist attractions and the number of major conventions on the horizon, a variety of measures of the health of the city's core suggest it might not be quite as vibrant as hoped. For instance, while Center City's population inches higher, office rental rates run stubbornly below national averages, an indication of a city's weakness in attracting new employers. Employment in health care and education - the city's biggest job creators - has been flattening and, in the first time in a decade, declined in 2013. Even tourism, a major boom in recent years, is showing unevenness. While total hotel-room nights are up, 10 of the city's 18 most important cultural attractions reported a drop in attendance in 2013. Losers included the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and

the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

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PNC stockholders reject paying for greenhouse gas report Stockholders of PNC Financial Services Group on Tuesday defeated a proposal by an activist shareholder asking for a report assessing the impact on climate change from greenhouse gas emissions produced by companies in PNC's lending portfolio, according to preliminary results at the Pittsburgh bank's annual meeting in Tampa, Fla. The exact vote tally was not immediately available. A similar proposal was defeated at last year's annual meeting, with 23 percent voting in favor of it. Boston Common Asset Management sponsored both proposals. PNC's board had recommended voting against the measure, saying it was "not an appropriate use of corporate assets" and could not be produced "at a reasonable cost." Three other matters on the agenda at the Intercontinental Tampa Hotel were approved, including the election of all 15 director nominees to one-year terms on the board and ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers as independent accountant. Shareholders also gave the nod to the company's executive compensation plan in a "say on pay" advisory vote. Tuesday's meeting, which for the first time was available via live audio-only webcast, also marked the first presided over by William Demchak, who succeeded James Rohr as CEO a year ago and took over the chairman's role at this year's event. Mr. Demchak gave no formal presentation during the 15-minute meeting and fielded just one shareholder comment. That was a dramatic contrast to last year's meeting at the August Wilson Center in Downtown, where demonstrators repeatedly disrupted the event, shouting out of turn and demanding that PNC stop lending money to companies engaged in mountaintop removal coal mining.

Anglers among first to be impacted by undesirable aquatic plants and animals (April 20) Plant and animal ranges have expanded and contracted for as long as there has been life on Earth. But

one unusually adaptive species is exceptionally good at radically altering the ranges of multiple species. Improvements in transportation, beginning with bipedal walking, have enabled humans to travel everywhere on the planet. Sometimes, intentionally or not, people carry things with them that have no ecological counter-balances in the new locations. Sometimes the result is rapid change that local environments cannot absorb. At an April 22 meeting of the Pittsburgh Downriggers Club, Sara Stahlman, senior coastal outreach specialist at Pennsylvania Sea Grant, intends to remind anglers that their boats and trailers provide the fastest way to transport undesired species among the state's waterways. "I think a lot of fishermen already generally know that," she said, "but they might not be aware that they may be personally contributing to it, or know how to prevent spreading these things around." Scientists at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state Fish and Boat Commission and other organizations report that the greatest threat to Pennsylvania waterways isn't necessarily industrial or biological pollution -- it's the spread of invasive and non-native species.

Gas drilling wastewater leak found in Amwell (April 18) What has been termed a "significant" leak of drilling waste water has occurred at Range Resources' John Day impoundment in Amwell Township, Washington County. Lisa Kasianowitz, a state Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman, confirmed the gas-drilling company discovered the leak during an inspection and reported it to the DEP on Wednesday. Range has hired a consulting firm to help plan remediation work at the site, John Poister, a DEP spokesman, said Friday. He said there is no indication at this time that leaked materials migrated through the soil and off the site, but an undetermined amount of contaminated soil will need to be dug up and removed. Mr. Poister said a DEP inspector was on the scene, and the department expects to issue a notice of violation to the Fort Worth, Texas-based drilling firm Monday or Tuesday. A civil penalty may also be assessed. Impoundments are big ponds built and used by drilling companies to store either fresh water used in the hydraulic fracturing process to crack the shale and release the gas it holds, or waste water that has returned to the surface after the "fracking" is completed and the well starts to produce gas.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Proposal to drill in West Deer and Frazer draws comments from both sides Allegheny County Council on Tuesday heard from nearly 50 speakers about a proposal to drill for natural gas under Deer Lakes Park in West Deer and Frazer. Energy companies Range Resources and Huntley & Huntley want to drill under the 1,180-acre park from well pads outside the boundary. The county would receive \$4.7 million in upfront payments, a \$3 million donation to a park improvement fund and 18 percent royalties over the life of the wells, according to a proposed lease. "I don't want my future Allegheny County to be a fracked Allegheny County, especially not my parks and public lands," said Nicholas Goodfellow, a junior at the University of Pittsburgh who wants to stay in the county after he graduates. Many of those who spoke in favor of the proposal touted the jobs natural gas development has brought to the region and the financial gain drilling under the park could bring to the county. "The natural gas is here. Let's extract it and do what we have to do with it to move this economy forward," said William Brooks of Carnegie. State Rep. Bill Kortz, D-Dravosburg, spoke in favor of the proposal, calling it "safe and responsible." Opponents expressed concern over recent accidents related to Marcellus shale development, including a three-truck crash on Monday in Washington County that spilled fracking wastewater and diesel fuel. Council's Parks Committee will hold a meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday at the

courthouse that will include a presentation from Range Resources and a panel to answer legal questions about the lease and proposal. Council could vote on the proposal as soon as next month.

Truck crash causes fracking water, diesel spill into Chartiers Creek (Monday) State environmental officials don't believe a tanker spill early Monday in Washington County polluted Chartiers Creek. Authorities confined almost all of the 1,300 gallons of diesel fuel and 400 gallons of fracking wastewater spilled from a three-tanker crash on Route 18 in Canton to the shoulder of the road and storm sewer, said Department of Environmental Protection spokesman John Poister. "There is no indication of any negative environmental impact," Poister said, noting authorities spotted no signs such as dead fish or oil sheens on the creek. Carnegie-based Weavertown Environmental Group put out floating booms to catch any diesel fuel and fracking wastewater that reached the creek. Water samples were sent for testing, Poister said. The DEP intends to remove roadside dirt that soaked up diesel, he said. A tanker hauling the fuel slammed into two tankers carrying frackwater that were stopped at a red light at Oak Grove Road and North Hewitt Avenue about 3 a.m. All three trucks overturned. That area of Route 18 remained closed until late Monday afternoon.

BEAVER COUNTY TIMES

Climate researcher: Don't let winter's cold fool you It might be a tough pitch -- talking about climate change just after one of the coldest winters in recent memory. But that's what professor Granger Morgan does, on Earth Day and every day. Morgan, head of Carnegie Mellon University's Department of Engineering and Public Policy and director of the university's Climate Decision Making Center, fights a constant battle to clear up misconceptions about man's impact on climate change, from detailing the basics of the phenomenon to trying to reconcile colder winters -- March 2014 was the coldest March in the lower 48 states since 2002 -- and a slowly warming planet. "We see that a lot," Morgan said. "We have a really hot summer, and people become more concerned. We have a really cold winter, like the one we just had, and we hear 'Maybe we don't need to be too concerned.'" But backed by an improving understanding of how carbon dioxide works with the earth's atmosphere and a set of climate data that grows each year, Morgan said the basic tenet of climate change -- that we're making the planet warmer -- is irrefutable. "There is still a lot of uncertainty in the science right now; we still have a lot to learn," Morgan said. "But there is very little question that you dramatically increase the CO2 level in the atmosphere, you're going to see changes in the climate."

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Sunoco project sparks concern among West Goshen WEST GOSHEN — Sunoco Pipeline representatives were bombarded with questions and criticisms from a packed room Tuesday night during a public forum hosted by West Goshen. The two-hour forum, held at West Chester East High School began with Sunoco representatives providing a presentation on its Mariner East project and pump station on Boot Road. Following the presentation, residents were able to ask questions for the remaining time. Sunoco's Mariner East Project pipeline and facilities have brought criticism and complaints from residents and local officials who say that the pipeline, and related above-ground facilities, will cause harm to the environment and raise safety concerns for those living in proximity to these pipelines. During Sunoco's presentation, representatives spoke about safety concerns and said they wanted to answer misconceptions about both the Mariner

East Project and the Boot Road Pump Station. “The safe operation of the pipeline is, for us, the most important thing,” said Charlie Stewart, director for pipeline operations for the Philadelphia area. According to Hank Alexander, vice president of business operations, the company has redesigned its pump station combustion flare from 34 feet to 30 feet to meet zoning code of West Goshen. He added that the combustion tower is safe and regulated, and will not produce visible emissions. “We remain committed to being a good neighbor,” Alexander said. There were more than 10 representatives at the meeting to discuss the project. However, President of Sunoco Logistics Michael Hennigan — who is also a West Goshen resident — was unable to attend because of a previously scheduled board of directors meeting, according to Sunoco spokesperson Jeff Shields.

Hook, Senate committee talk transit revitalization UPPER DARBY — Marcus Hook officials have seen potential for development surrounding its SEPTA station for more than a decade. And while ideas have freely flowed about what to do with a 7-acre plot of land the town owns near the Delaware River, they are still just ideas. But there may be some hope, and funding, on the horizon in the form a proposed amendment to Pennsylvania Senate Bill 2010, also known as the Transit Revitalization Investment District Act. The Transit Revitalization Investment District was first put into place in 2004, but the ability of smaller communities like Marcus Hook to get funds to help with the early stages of development have been limited. Marcus Hook Borough Manager Bruce Dorian was among several who spoke at a Senate Transportation Committee hearing Tuesday at the Upper Darby Township Municipal Building. The purpose of TRID is to help communities develop business and residential areas near transportation hubs. The problem for Marcus Hook is that it doesn’t have the funds necessary to do some predevelopment work in the area and then depend on tax revenue from the development to refurbish its budget. “Small towns don’t have the money to wait for years for the real estate taxes that would come in,” said Dorian. “It’s hard to get someone to invest in the community. You need a developer and you need some dollars.”

CBS LOCAL PHIALDELPHIA

West Goshen Residents Voice Concerns About Proposed Pumping Station Residents in West Goshen Township voice concerns over a proposed pumping station to support fracking activities. Plans call for it at the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex on the site of the former Sunoco Refinery. “Why should the local residents and lawmakers believe, trust, or have any faith in what you are telling us?” resident Alan Steinberg said. That direct question to Sunoco Logistics Management drew a standing ovation from the crowd. Many expressed skepticism over the company’s plans to build another pumping station near residential homes in West Goshen Township along 202 and Boot Road. (Reporter:) “*This whole station would be just right here?*” “Right behind the woods here,” neighbor Kevin Link said. Kevin Link and his neighbors will have a front row seat to the pumping station that would move tens of thousands of barrels of propane and ethane from Marcellus Shale every day. “The primary concern is the safety,” he said. Residents packed West Chester East High School expressing concerns about a catastrophic failure and explosion along with the impact to property values, air and noise quality. “We’ve been here for a long time. We’ve co-existed peacefully, we’ve operated safely here and without impact on the neighborhood before,” Jeff Shields of Sunoco Logistics said. The new pump would be built next to an old pump that was used to move gasoline and diesel. The new pump would be tied into the underground pipeline there that was originally installed in the 1930’s. The

Casey family is among those who don't want to see the new pump built. "We've just going to put up the biggest fight you can imagine," resident Maria Cuddy-Casey said. The pending legal battle as well as Sunoco Logistics requirement to obtain all necessary government approval means a final decision on whether or not the pumping station can be built is still likely several months away.

WICU-TV ERIE

Presque Isle Beach Cleanup A Big Success More than 800 community members got together Saturday for a big spring cleaning effort at Presque Isle State Park.

The volunteers started bright and early, to make sure the region's top natural resource is in tip top shape. 8-year-old, Tiffany Dickinson, was one of the youngest volunteers cleaning up the beaches. "I want to keep the earth safe and healthy for the animals to live in," she said. The volunteers grabbed gloves, vests and garbage bags before heading out to collect trash and debris. Ethel Freeman, of Harborcreek, loves enjoying the beaches so she thought it would only be right to help clean them up. "I came out because I love the peninsula, I love what they do out here and the opportunity that we have to enjoy this beautiful place," said Ethel Freeman. This is the 58th annual spring clean up event. Organizers know people are passionate about keeping Erie's top tourist attraction, in top shape. "We're cleaning up just about every inch of Presque Isle State Park," said Environmental Educator, Stacey Marendt. "You're helping the wildlife and the environment but you're also helping the park look nice for the upcoming season," she said. A tire in the water and a few dirty diapers were among the most unusual items volunteers found, but most of the trash was plastic bottles and cigarette butts. This year, organizers asked volunteers to put cigarette butts into a separate bag. Park officials hope to open Presque Isle beaches, Memorial Day weekend.

HAZELTON STANDARD-SPEAKER

Letter: Gas industry thrives while needy suffer I find it very disingenuous when local politicians bemoan the loss of organizations like URS, yet they have voted for the budgets that have slashed those organizations' funding in the first place. Similar scenes are occurring across the state in schools for physically impaired students, at soup kitchens, and at services for children; in short, our most vulnerable. We in Pennsylvania and the United States are making a choice when we elect conservatives into government. Our choice is to cut taxes on the wealthy, deregulate business and to cut budgets to achieve those tax cuts. It is morally objectionable to me that we do not tax the Marcellus Shale industry one penny, but we cut the state funding to desperately valuable organizations like URS. Shame on us all.

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

Editorial: State, drillers bear burden for fracking dangers In mid-February, a natural gas well exploded in Greene County. One person, 27-year-old Ian McKee, was killed. At the time of the accident, the state Department of Environmental Protection sent inspectors to the site. Even though the permit for the well mandates that "properly identified" DEP members be allowed on the well site, Chevron, which owns the well, refused. The company allowed the DEP response team on the site only after DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo personally showed up and reminded them of their legal obligations. Chevron claimed it was not allowing anyone on the site, which burned for five days, for safety reasons. Chevron's refusal was one of nine violations cited by the agency in its notice to the company. Other violations included the illegal venting of hazardous

gas, the emission of air contaminants, an equipment failure at the wellhead and the illegal discharge of production fluids into the ground. While DEP is correct to go after Chevron for violations related to the explosion and fire, DEP itself is being scrutinized for ignoring wellpad discharges that pollute water supplies. A 40-page brief filed with the state Superior Court on April 1 alleges that DEP regulators routinely do not cite companies for discharges when the drillers reach private settlements with water well owners. The practice was put in place during the Rendell administration. Act 13, which authorized shale gas drilling in the state, requires DEP to notify public water systems about spills, but it does not require the agency to notify private well water users.

PENNVEST awards \$1.5M to 2 water-quality projects here Two Lancaster County projects received \$1.5 million in Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority funding, it was announced Tuesday. Marlin Becker of Elizabethtown received a \$619,000 grant from PENNVEST to construct two manure storage facilities, animal trails, storm water controls and other improvements that will eliminate nutrient runoff into Conewago Creek and, eventually, the Chesapeake Bay. The total cost is \$619,000. Mount Hope Nazarene Retirement Community of Manheim received a \$884,000 loan from PENNVEST to construct a new package treatment plant to replace malfunctioning on-lot systems that are discharging sewage into an open ditch. The total project cost is \$978,000. The two local projects were among 13 statewide to share in \$41.7 million in grants and loans from PENNVEST.

LEBANON DAILY NEWS

Opponents of Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project to hold organizational meeting Landowners and environmentalists in Lebanon County are organizing to oppose construction of a pipeline that would transport Marcellus Shale gas from the county's northern end to its southern border and beyond. The Atlantic Sunrise Expansion Project, also referred to as the Central Penn Line South, is a 176-mile pipeline proposed by Williams Partners which would connect existing compressor stations in Susquehanna and Lancaster counties so the shale gas could be pumped to the company's 10,200-mile Transco pipeline system running from the Texas gulf coast to New York City, Williams officials told the Lebanon County commissioners in February. Maps of the proposed 27-mile path through the county presented at that meeting show the pipeline crossing from Pine Grove Township, Schuylkill County into Lebanon County near Swatara State Park. The pipeline skirts the northern edge of the park in Union Township before doglegging south near Lickdale. From there it continues south through East Hanover, North Annville, South Annville and South Londonderry townships before entering Lancaster County at Lawn. Opponents of the pipeline have scheduled a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday on the third floor of the William Penn Restaurant building at 629 Cumberland Street in Lebanon to organize their efforts and plan a strategy on how to proceed, said Ann Pinca. Pinca was one of two environmental advocates who addressed the Lebanon County commissioners last week to urge them to oppose construction of the Williams' pipeline. The other was Michael Schroeder, an assistant professor of history at Lebanon Valley College and board member of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association. Both noted Williams' safety record, documenting a number of line explosions that have occurred in recent years, including some at compressors in Pennsylvania. In her statement, Pinca said the pipeline will result in a removal of a significant amount of trees on Blue Mountain in Union Township. She also stated that Lebanon County will see little benefit from the transport of natural gas destined for customers in other parts of the country and overseas.

POTTSTOWN MERCURY

Area schools, colleges, nonprofits receive funds for environmental education Several area schools, colleges and nonprofits were awarded grants that will help them educate the public about important environmental issues. According to a press release from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, grant recipients plan to use the funding for various initiatives including farm field days, summer camps, exploratory learning activities, professional development and explanatory signage along watersheds. Through these initiatives, students, teachers, farmers and others will learn about a variety of environmental issues ranging from pollination, stormwater management and hydroponics in agriculture, to Marcellus Shale and the Chesapeake Bay. Locally, the following organizations have received grants through the program, which was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside 5 percent of the pollution fines and penalties DEP collects annually for environmental education.

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

Finding the true green on Earth Day (Tuesday) Today is Earth Day, and corporations are more than willing to promote sustainability to draw in dollars. But how do consumers tell when they're for real and when they're just "greenwashing?" The term describes a corporation touting a false or trumped-up record of environmental consciousness. Upstate New York-based environmental activist Jay Westerveld coined it in a 1986 essay on a hotel equating the reuse of towels with saving the environment. For consumers who care about the environment, finding a truly sustainable product is challenging, with 95 percent of "greener" products making at least one deceptive or manipulative claim, according to a 2010 report by Underwriters Laboratories, a not-for-profit safety testing and certification organization. The group developed a list of "Seven Sins of Greenwashing." Firms greenwash their products or activities when they hide a trade-off, such as suggesting paper made from a sustainably-harvested forest is itself a sustainable product. Their claims can be vague, such as promoting a product's "natural ingredients." For all a consumer knows, that could mean it's full of arsenic, a natural, poisonous element. The claims might be also irrelevant by promoting an action required by law. Claims might come without proof, or firms might use graphic design to give the impression a product is certified sustainable by a third party.

WASHINGTON OBSERVER-REPORTER

Marcellus Shale advocates speak out against severance tax Advocates of the Marcellus Shale gas industry Tuesday warned of the consequences of a new severance tax on the industry that is being debated on both sides of the aisle in Harrisburg. The Marcellus supporters, including the Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association leader, reiterated the benefits of the drilling boom and threatened the industry would slow down in the state and pass any extra costs on to consumers if such a tax becomes reality. PIOGA President and Executive Director Lou D'Amico said politicians are debating something that would be "unfair taxation" because it would not be imposed on any other extraction industries in the state. "The government regulations would be passed down the chain and increase the cost to consumers," added Gene Barr, president of the state Chamber of Business and Industry. Stephanie Catarino Wissman, executive director of Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania, said the severance tax was returned to the table as lawmakers look for ways to close holes in the state budget. A new Marcellus tax has become a

political issue in the Pennsylvania governor's race this year, and the mere mention of it has scared investors, the advocates said Tuesday during a telephone news conference. This tax is directed at an industry that has resulted in "some manufacturing surges," and the affordable energy source has persuaded some businesses to stay in Pennsylvania "because we have this resource," Barr said.

WILLIAMSPORT SUN GAZETTE

Experts: Threat of climate change not a myth or hoax

Human-caused climate change is real. Ice caps in the Arctic and ice sheets in Greenland are melting at an alarming rate. Sea levels are rising. And the world's greenhouse emissions - carbon-based gases that cause heat to stay trapped in the atmosphere - need to be cut by 40 to 70 percent of their 2010 levels by 2050 so that the Earth's average temperature doesn't rise beyond a point of no return, negatively affecting the world's food supply and threatening aquatic life

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

"Fugitive dust" from Norfolk coal cars stirs health fears NORFOLK-- Cathy Henry wondered about the black stuff. It coated the hands and feet of her 19-month-old twin girls when they played on the balcony of her West Ghent duplex. Environmental activists going door to door recently told her what it was: coal dust. Henry, 30, and her Navy pilot husband, who moved to Norfolk in October, were outraged. "You try to raise your kids right - buy the organic stuff, try to keep them healthy - and then there's this," she said. Residents and environmentalists say the coal dust blows in from the Lamberts Point coal terminal on the Elizabeth River and off uncovered Norfolk Southern rail cars that bring coal there from the mountains of Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. The railroad company's terminal, known as Pier 6, is the largest coal exporting facility in the Northern Hemisphere. Last year, 21.8 million tons of coal shuttled by about 200,000 rail cars arrived at the terminal to be loaded onto ships bound for Asia, Europe and South America. A few blocks away, in the Lamberts Point neighborhood, homeowner James Freeman, 62, opened a dining room window on a recent afternoon and pointed to a gritty, black substance coating the sill. "If I had known about this, I wouldn't have purchased this house," said Freeman, who bought his house in 2010. "We're stuck in a place we don't want to be." He said the dust worsens the breathing problems of his 7-year-old grandson, who lives with him.

House members have 'serious concerns' about charity rules A bipartisan group of House members has "substantial concerns" about new Obama administration regulations for the Combined Federal Campaign, the charitable giving vehicle for the federal workforce. While praising certain elements of the new rules for increasing transparency and accountability, the members said any changes should "not negatively impact the program's ability to serve those in need in our communities." In a letter to Office of Management and Budget Director Sylvia Matthews Burwell, the Republicans and Democrats noted three points raised by charitable organizations: the non-refundable charity application fee, no cash contributions and changes to charity support organizations. The letter was sent by Reps. Darrell E. Issa (R-Calif.) and Elijah E. Cummings (Md.), chairman and ranking Democrat, respectively, on the Oversight and

Government Reform Committee; Blake Farenthold (R-Tex.) and Stephen F. Lynch (Mass.), chairman and top Democrat on the federal workforce subcommittee; and David G. Reichert (R-Wash.), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Moniz and McCarthy to throw first (and second?) pitch at Red Sox game Unless they hold hands and literally throw the first pitch together, or throw two balls simultaneously, either Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz or Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy will be throwing the second pitch at Fenway Park Tuesday night. But first or second, there is perhaps no more daunting task for a public official than throwing a baseball in front of a crowded stadium and praying it, at least, reaches home plate. "House of Cards" fans will recall how Frank Underwood nervously practiced his pitch for an Orioles game, as wife Claire helpfully reminded him that when he threw one back in South Carolina it somehow managed to go straight up and smash him on the head. (Spoiler: Underwood never got his redemption because a Northeast energy blackout interrupted his throw.) In honor of Earth Day, the two Boston natives, Moniz and McCarthy, were invited to throw the ceremonial first pitch at Tuesday evening's Red Sox-Yankees game. And like Underwood, they've been practicing. Check out this awesome video of Moniz — his arm's looking good — throwing practice pitches with his trademark long gray hair flowing from under a baseball cap. Apparently, Moniz played center field in his younger days and had even been invited to try out for the majors

WAMU-RADIO (NPR)

Montgomery County Council Passes Nine Environmental Bills In Maryland, the Montgomery County council commemorated Earth Day by passing nine different bills regarding environmental matters. The measures range from increasing the amount of parking spaces that have chargers for electric cars to zoning changes that allow residents and businesses to install larger solar panels. Councilman Roger Berliner sponsored all of them, saying it's up to local governments to take actions to slow climate change. "If we as a county do what we can, and if other metropolitan areas around the country do the same, then we may be able to bypass the dysfunction in our Congress that prevents our country from doing what it must," Berliner said. Council Vice President George Leventhal mentioned that the county has previously tried to push biodiesel vehicles the same way it's trying to do with today's passage of measures aiding electric cars. But Leventhal says biodiesel has yet to take off, and whether electric cars do is similarly murky. "Montgomery County has a unique advantage in that so many of our population came to this area to work for or in connection with the government. And so we have a body politic in Montgomery County that strongly supports what Franklin Roosevelt called 'bold, persistent experimentation.'" All the bills passed unanimously. The measure regarding parking spots mandates that any new building or lot that has 100 spaces must have at least one with an electric vehicle charger.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Earth Day marked in Delaware by new calls to action Events ranged from new trails in Sussex

County to speeches at Rodney Square in Wilmington. Delaware marked the 45th Earth Day in dozens of ways and places Tuesday, from walking trails in Sussex County to a tree planting near a river cleanup site in Dover to speeches at Rodney Square in Wilmington. "We have a lot to be proud of," Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary Collin P. O'Mara said in Wilmington, during a program hosted by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. "We've cleaned up power plants, we've reduced emissions, but we still have air that's not healthy to breathe on many days." Earth Day, part of a global environmental movement, was first marked in the United States in 1970 and grew out of public outrage and alarm over acid rain, dense smog, habitat losses, pesticide poisonings and pollution so severe that floating fires became common along the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio... Shawn M. Garvin, a Wilmington resident and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator for the five-state Philadelphia region, said the threat of global warming and pollution-driven climate change has created a need for public awareness and action broader than the Earth Day teach-ins of 1970, and the years of environmental reforms and cleanups that followed. "It's at least evolving to the point where many more people agree that something's going on with the Earth's climate. Now it's the battle of how is it caused and what are we going to do about it," Garvin said, adding that threats posed by global warming are alarming, and require urgent action.

Bright hopes grow in Wilmington In these parts, the rule of thumb – if that thumb is green – is to hold off on outdoor planting until about May 15, when frost-free conditions are likely to prevail. But who can wait for this growing season to begin? Not the young entrepreneurs of Bright Spot Ventures in Wilmington, a team of teens and young adults who all have been in foster care at one time or another. They're already digging into the raised beds of the Rodney Reservoir Community Garden, where a bucket-brigade of 125 volunteers last year carried 80 cubic yards of compost – about a tractor-trailer load – up the steep concrete steps from Clayton Street to the garden, one five-gallon bucket at a time. They're watering hundreds of seedlings in the twin greenhouses at the Delaware Psychiatric Center, where they are building a new partnership with former patients of the hospital. And now – for the first time – they're going mobile, taking their produce to the streets in a refrigerated truck that starts making rounds next month. The same team that founded the popular Wilmington Farmers' Market at Cool Spring Park a few years ago will use that new truck to carry fresh produce to Wilmington-area senior centers and other farmers' markets throughout the city. The list of mobile stops continues to grow as groups learn of the new endeavor, said project manager Mike McCafferty. More than 50 kids have worked for Bright Spot Ventures since it was launched several years ago by West End Neighborhood House. All have been in – or still are in – foster care. Six are on the 2014 team so far, with 10 to 12 more employees expected as the season unfolds.

WHYY NEWSWORKS

Wilmington celebrates 44th annual Earth Day Earth Day is April 22, but environmental activists and officials want to see earth-friendly activities observed year-round. On Tuesday, Jennifer Adkins, executive director of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, recognized the many accomplishments made since the first Earth Day 44 years ago. In 1970, Earth Day was created to bring attention to the idea of environmental reform, with the hope of applying scientific advancements to improve management of the environment and changing the relationship between humans and their environment. Since then, the impact has been a change in the public's awareness of their environment, the creation of organizations who advocate for environmentally-

sound practices and policies and the implementation of these ideas. "In hindsight, this makes a lot of sense, but it was a big change," Adkins said. "Like any meaningful change, it takes time." Much accomplished, much to do. Adkins explained that for the changes to be implemented, time was needed for the study of ecological systems, for research and development to be initiated, and for the application of reworked infrastructure. The good news: To some degree, it worked. Rivers are cleaner, aquatic species are again inhabiting local water bodies, and riverfronts are being reclaimed for recreation and development. "We began using what we were learning to introduce people to new ideas for how they can be good stewards of land and water," she said. But, of course, their work is far from over. DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara noted that 86 percent of Delaware waterways are not safe for swimming. As some suggested on Tuesday, the most challenging work lies ahead. "We've picked the low-hanging fruit," observed Shawn Garvin, regional administrator for the EPA. The most obvious sources of pollution are being addressed, which makes current concerns – contaminated soil, airborne pollutants and runoff from paved surfaces – more vexing. In addition, Garvin described climate change and carbon emissions as being high on his watch list.

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

Officials highlight Delaware's strengths DOVER — Sussex County resident Scott Green estimates that when completed, the new 2-mile trail linking Gordons Pond and Herring Point in Cape Henlopen State Park will bring nearly 25,000 bike riders a year who will use the ferry connecting New Jersey to Delaware. There are already tens of thousands coming to ride the Junction and Breakwater Trail, said Green, Delaware River & Bay Authority executive director, to a room of commercial real estate professionals gathered at Dover Downs April 3 for a symposium on development strategies. The ferry acts as a tourism link for Delaware, which is why the authority is planning to spend \$400 million over the next 10 years upgrading and improving services, said Green. Green was one of 10 panelists to highlight Delaware's strengths and areas of needed improvement to real estate professionals who are selling the state as a place for commercial entities to expand. Other panelists included Jim Waddington, Kent County Economic Development director. Waddington discussed the development of Food Innovation Districts and the emerging food-processing facilities market. These districts - designated as food hubs - would be developed specifically to bring businesses specializing in new-age food packaging and processing techniques to the county, he said, such as a facility that creates gluten-free food.

Dewey's Sunset Park gets facelift Dewey Beach — Repairs and upgrades at Sunset Park in Dewey Beach are nearly complete. Fronting the bay at the end of Dagsworthy Avenue, the park is one of few waterfront places that have no structures on it. "What a nice little park," said Marc Appelbaum, Dewey Beach town manager. "This is a simple solution for a beautiful little park. We want to encourage more people to visit it." Appelbaum said the town rebuilt the bridge that connects the street to the park, the gazebo in the park was moved back from the waterline and spruced up, vegetation was cleared and the benches that line the beach were repositioned. Still to come are finishing touches and installing solar-powered, motion-censored lights. Appelbaum said the lights will help police monitor the park at night and limit mischief. In addition to the work already completed, the Center for the Inland Bays is waiting to hear on a \$418,000 grant request habitat improvements. Bartholomew Wilson, center science coordinator, said CIB should hear from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation on the grant request sometime in May.

Wilson said if approved, the grant would provide funding to establish about half an acre of tidal wetlands, a new horseshoe crab habitat, concrete oyster castles and wave attenuation devices, designed to mitigate wave action that occurs during storms while still allowing marine life to navigate easily.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Blog: Patriot Coal warns of potential layoffs Here's the news announced this morning by Patriot Coal: *Patriot Coal Corporation today issued WARN Act notices at its Wells mining complex located near Wharton, West Virginia, and also at its Corridor G mining complex located near Danville, West Virginia. The Wells complex, which includes the Black Stallion Mine, CC10 Mine, and Wells preparation plant, employs 450 people and produced 1.4 million tons of metallurgical coal in 2013. The Corridor G complex, which includes the Hobet 21 Mine and Beth Station preparation plant, employs 397 people and produced 2.3 million tons of thermal coal in 2013.*

HUNTINGTON HERALD DISPATCH

Grants received by W.Va. counties HUNTINGTON -- U.S. Rep Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., announced Tuesday in a news release that the Crum Public Service District in Wayne County and the Mingo County Public Service District are receiving more than \$1.4 million in federal grant monies from the USDA Rural Development.

PARKERSBURG NEWS AND SENTINEL

\$615M Power Plant Planned for Marshall County MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va. - A new, \$615 million natural gas power plant will be coming to Marshall County in the near future, county commissioners were informed this morning.

WEST VIRGINIA METRO NEWS

Gas power plant planned for Marshall County A private development company plans a \$615 million natural gas-fired power plant in Marshall County. Moundsville Power announced plans for the project at Tuesday's Marshall County Commission meeting. Managing partner Andrew Dorn told commissioners they are securing permits for the plant and hope to begin construction next spring. He says the construction phase will employ up to 500 workers while 30 people will work full-time at the plant when it goes on line in 2018. Dorn says the plant will use over \$100 million worth of natural gas a year to generate electricity that will be sold on the power grid.

The plant will be located on a 38-acre site along Route 2. The announcement is the latest economic development associated with increased Marcellus Shale gas well drilling in the region.

Dorn says the plant will help offset the impact of the coal-fired Kammer power plant, which is shutting down.

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER

NY Developer Seeks To Build Power Plant MOUNDSVILLE - By 2018, private developer Moundsville Power LLC of Buffalo, N.Y., hopes to generate 549 megawatts of electricity by

burning Marcellus and Utica shale natural gas in a \$615 million plant along the Ohio River. During the Marshall County Commission meeting Tuesday, officials from Moundsville Power and the Regional Economic Development Partnership discussed the project, on which developers hope to break ground either later this year or in early 2015. "We have been working on this for a long time," said Andrew Dorn, managing partner with Moundsville Power. He also said during the meeting the company has filed for air quality permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection. Officials said the project's construction phase will create 400-500 part-time jobs, while about 30 full-time workers will run the proposed plant once it is operational. The company plans to construct the facility on a 37.5-acre parcel along W.Va. 2 between the Williams Energy fractionation natural gas processing plant and the Moundsville Country Club. "It is exciting because we now have a local user for the gas that is being produced here," Don Rigby, RED executive director, said. "We look forward to continuing to work on this," added Commissioner Don Mason. According to organizers and Marshall County Administrator Betsy Frohnapfel, the county would end up owning the plant under the proposed plan. The company would then lease the facility and land from the county to conduct its business. Frohnapfel said she does not believe the commission will enter such an agreement for at least a few months. On Tuesday, Mason, along with commissioners Bob Miller and Brian Schambach, approved a resolution that would allow Moundsville Power to have a Payment in Lieu of Tax agreement, instead of paying regular property taxes. Frohnapfel said the company would make a \$4.2 million payment over 30 years.

Local Vendors Benefiting From Drilling Boom WHEELING - Eagle Manufacturing soon will hire about 25 additional employees as it prepares to roll out a new spill containment system for oil and gas drilling rig sites, according to its CEO, Joe Eddy. The recent growth of Eagle Manufacturing, which produces hundreds of hazardous materials safety products at its plant on Charles Street in Wellsburg, is just one example of how drilling in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations can benefit the area economy not just by bringing new ventures to the area, but by providing work for established ones as well, Eddy said Tuesday during the Ohio Valley Oil and Gas Association's Boomtown Panel 2.0 at Wheeling Park's White Palace. The event brought together oil and gas industry representatives, vendors and prospective vendors to network and discuss how the shale boom is impacting the region. "We've added 25 employees in the last year, and a lot of that has been to support this industry," he said. Eddy, who worked for more than 30 years in the oilfields of Texas and elsewhere before joining Eagle Manufacturing in 1996, is confident the drilling boom is here to stay. "We're in a time that we've never seen before. ... I think this is a 30, 40, 50-year boom," he said. "We're going to have ups and downs regionally, but we all have a part to play in this." Robert Rikeman, vice president of logistics for Rice Energy, a Canonsburg, Pa., company with offices in St. Clairsville, agrees. He said his company has leased enough mineral acres in the Utica shale to build 200 well pads. "We've built three. This isn't going anywhere. ... We didn't spend \$300 million (on leasing) in Belmont County to not be here for a while," Rikeman said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. VA.)

Natural gas-fired power plant planned in W.Va. MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va. — Developers say a natural gas-fired power plant is planned in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle. Officials for Moundsville Power and the Regional Economic Development Partnership of Wheeling unveiled the plans for the \$615 million plant at a Marshall County Commission meeting Tuesday.

Moundsville Power managing partner Andrew Dorn says developers have filed air quality permits and hope to begin construction next spring near a Williams Energy processing plant along the Ohio River. The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register reports the project would create up to 500 construction jobs, while the plant would employ 30 full-time workers. The plant would generate up to 549 megawatts of electricity when operational by 2018. The project comes as American Electric Power prepares to close its coal-fired Kammer Plant near Moundsville by next year.

W.Va. DHHR appoints three after audit CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia's Department of Health and Human Resources has appointed three deputy secretaries in response to an audit last year detailing the agency's inefficiencies. The sprawling department has already described plans to create three separate divisions. Molly Jordan will serve as deputy secretary of health services overseeing the Bureau for Public Health and the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities. Harold Clifton will serve as deputy secretary of human services overseeing the Bureau for Children and Families and the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement. Jeremiah Samples will serve as deputy secretary of public insurance and strategic planning overseeing the Bureau for Medical Services, the Office of Health Improvement, and Grant Strategy. A news release says the state Department of Health and Human Resources changes are effective May 1.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Baltimore, other big cities back EPA in Bay cleanup dispute Baltimore has joined with other major U.S. cities in defending the federal government's authority to impose a "pollution diet" on the Chesapeake Bay. New York City, with sign-ons from Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and San Francisco, filed a "friend-of-the-court" brief Monday in federal appeals court in a case challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's imposition of bay cleanup goals on Maryland and the other five states in the Chesapeake watershed. Agriculture and building industry groups are appealing a lower court's ruling last year upholding EPA's actions in seeking to restore the bay. They argue the agency has exceeded its legal authority in trying to make states curb farm and development runoff. The agency in 2010 adopted a "total maximum daily load" limiting pollution of the Chesapeake, ordering Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Delaware to join in reducing the amount of nutrients and sediment flowing into the bay from sewage plants, farms and city and suburban streets. EPA has called it the largest and most complex such cleanup plan it's ever developed. Industry groups contend that by setting pollution reduction targets for each state, the federal government has intruded into land use decisions that are the province of state or local governments. They warn the plan could potentially harm sectors of the U.S. economy. Attorneys general for 21 states, from Alaska to Florida, have sided with the industry groups, fearing that EPA could step in and order similarly sweeping cleanups of other waterways. The biggest of those is the Mississippi River basin, which drains parts or all of 31 states - including western Maryland. The river and its tributaries flush enough farm fertilizer and other waste into the Gulf of Mexico to create a massive "dead zone" there that dwarfs the one that besets the Chesapeake every summer. Lawyers for the cities counter that unless EPA can require cleanup from all sources of water pollution, including storm

runoff from farmland and development, the burden will fall disproportionately on sewage plants run by municipalities and other facilities that are directly regulated via discharge permits. According to EPA, agriculture runoff remains a leading source of the bay's nutrient and sediment pollution; urban and suburban runoff, though a smaller contributor, is growing as development spreads. Environmental groups, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, some local governments and groups representing operators of municipal sewage plants also have filed briefs supporting EPA.

Osprey attempts to build nest in front of Maryland Bay Bridge traffic ... In the contest between bird and traffic camera, it's a question of which will blink first. A persistent osprey — likely in league with a mate — has been trying since late last week to build a nest smack dab in front of a traffic cam keeping watch on the eastbound U.S. 50 approach to the Bay Bridge. The Maryland Transportation Authority has removed the nest three times, only to have the determined bird or birds return. Late Tuesday afternoon, a branch — possibly the beginnings of another nest — could be seen in front of the camera, lying on the steel gantry over the highway. "Good grief!" said John Sales, spokesman for the authority, when informed of fresh evidence of nest building. This isn't the first brush with wildlife for the transportation authority, which manages the state's toll bridges, tunnels and highways. Eagles, ospreys and even a peregrine falcon have been allowed to nest unmolested on the Bay Bridge and other structures before, Sales said. But this is the first time any have chosen to build their home in front of one of the cameras providing a live view online of cars and trucks whizzing by below. "We're concerned because she's blocking one of our traffic cameras that we use for monitoring traffic conditions at the bridge," Sales said. Authority officials also worry for the birds' safety, he said.

SALISBURY DAILY TIME

Local Conservancy director excited about new role NASSAWADOX — When Jill Bieri stepped into the executive director's role at The Nature Conservancy Virginia Coast Reserve, all the seams of her career were sewn to make one whole. "It lets me take everything I've been doing for my whole career and put it together," she said. The former nonprofit director and environmental educator is excited about her new position, and Bieri speaks with awe about the visionaries and guardians who came before her. "I am amazed by the foresight of The Nature Conservancy to protect this land," she said. The conservancy owns 14 of the 18 barrier islands and about 90 percent of the area's Atlantic coastline, she said. For eight years, Bieri was executive director of the nonprofit Chesapeake Experience, a foundation she started to provide opportunities for hands-on Chesapeake Bay field work to teachers within the Hampton Roads area. She also served as one of the foundation's environmental educators. The workshops proved very popular, and teachers soon began requesting similar experiences geared toward their students. "It snowballed into doing trips for grades three through 12," she said. Before Chesapeake Experience, she worked for NOAA and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as an environmental educator. That strong background and intimate knowledge natural coastal processes has Bieri worried about climate change and sea level rise, and it changes they are causing to landscapes and seascapes.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay impact crater adds to sea level rise COLLEGE PARK, Md. -- Scientists say sea level rise is occurring at a faster pace in the Chesapeake Bay region than the global average, and

the dramatic formation of the bay itself is a significant reason why. About 35 million years ago, a meteorite collided with the Earth near the current location of the mouth of the bay, where it transitions into the Atlantic Ocean. The impact left a crater more than 55 miles wide, setting events into motion that eventually led to the formation of the bay about 3,000 years ago. When the meteorite hit, it created a giant hole into which loose materials flowed. This replaced harder rock layers from before the impact with much softer, less compacted dirt, said Curt Smith, regional planner for Virginia's Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. Since then, this softer material has slowly compacted together, shifting downward. Because of this, the land near the crater is slowly sinking. Land around the bay has been slowly sinking for millions of years, but nobody has determined exactly how much of this is due to the crater, said Ward Sanford, a United States Geological Survey hydrologist. Smith said the crater is definitely one reason this area is experiencing the fastest rates of relative sea level rise on the East Coast. Relative sea level rise, which takes both rising sea levels and sinking land into account, averaged 3.9 millimeters per year, according to USGS data collected from four stations in the southern Chesapeake Bay until 2006. The global average sea level rise is 1.8 millimeters per year, according to a USGS report released in December. Another effect that can contribute to sea level rise is the withdrawal of underground water supplies. If the amount of groundwater decreases, the weight of rock layers above the groundwater compacts softer layers downward, Sanford said. This can amount to centimeters of change over decades. About 80 percent of sinking land nationwide is caused by groundwater withdrawals, according to USGS data.

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL -GAZETTE

Chesapeake Bay grasses up, but not in Anne Arundel Chesapeake Bay Program officials say that bay grasses, a bellwether of the estuary's water quality, increased by 24 percent last year — but not in Anne Arundel County waters. Mid-bay waters between the Honga River in Dorchester County and Pocomoke Sound near the Maryland-Virginia line, as well as the upper bay's Susquehanna Flats had more grasses compared to 2012

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

Md. agriculture department calls for help in fight against invasive pests, plants It's a problem that affects farmers, governments and communities at large: Invasive plants, insects and diseases that harm the natural environment and are often costly for those affected. That's why the Maryland Department of Agriculture is calling on the public to help stop the threat of invasive species wherever they are proliferating, releasing a set of recommendations for residents and farmers that may interact with the species. The U.S. Department of Agriculture designates April as Invasive Plant, Pest and Disease Awareness Month. "People are starting to camp and fish and they're outside more," MDA spokeswoman Vanessa Orlando said. "So we're just trying to get the word out on some helpful things they can do to try to keep things from latching onto them and going where they're not supposed to go." The MDA's recommendations call on all residents to determine where invasive species exist in order to avoid them, and ensure that one removes any invasive plants or seeds that may be stuck on any boots or equipment before leaving an infected area. Invasive pests often arrive in the U.S. through cargo ships and by international travelers, according to the MDA. Since the pests have no natural predators in the U.S., they can spread rapidly, disrupting natural habitats and damaging commercial crops. Many people in Carroll County, like in much of the state, are affected by the problems invasive species cause. Visitors of Piney Run Lake, for instance, have noticed an increased surge of an exotic

invasive plant, hydrilla verticillata, that has affected boating and fishing at the lake, said Jeff Degitz, administrator of the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks, at a recent Carroll County budget session. Degitz said the plant grows quickly and must be mowed regularly in the lake. It is difficult, if not impossible, to get rid of the plant now that it is firmly entrenched in the lake, he said. "Once you have it, you pretty much have it," Degitz said, when asked by a county commissioner if it was possible to eliminate the plant from the water. Degitz asked for \$51,655 for the salary and benefits of a maintenance specialist for Fiscal Year 2015 to help remove the plant from the lake. Melvin Baile, a grain farmer in New Windsor, said in an interview that in recent years he has had to battle brown marmorated stink bugs that damage his crops. He said the stink bugs, which are originally from Asia and are classified as an invasive species by the state, can highly affect the maturity of the crops he grows. Baile said it is hard to know how much the bugs have affected his profits, although he noted that he must spray insecticide that keeps the bugs away. Purchasing the insecticide cuts into his bottom line, he said, but is highly necessary.

Adults, children learn about tree planting, identification on Earth Day FINSKBURG -- When planting a tree, a stake may be unnecessary; you also may want to put a plastic tube around the tree to make sure it is not damaged by deer if the critters are a concern where you live. That is what children and adults learned at the "What Tree is That" event held Tuesday at the Finsburg branch of the Carroll County Public Library to celebrate Earth Day. The walk and talk was led by Stephen Allgeier, horticulturist at the University of Maryland Carroll County Extension office. At the event, Allgeier walked around with 10 children and 11 adults and identified trees around the library. But first, Allgeier planted a tree in front of the library building and talked about the best practices for planting a tree. For instance, he explained that trees, even if they look crooked when they go into the ground, still may not need a stake to be attached to them. "What trees have in them ... are hormones that will actually redirect [their] growth and help [them] to straighten back up," Allgeier said. "I have seen trees that have been bent over completely and, eventually, they start to straighten back up."

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Willetts named new Emmitsburg town clerk EMMITSBURG — The Board of Commissioners voted Monday night to make administrative assistant Cathy Willet its new town clerk. Donna DesPres will retire May 1 after 19 years as town clerk. Willet said she has been making the transition into the role for a few months, but Monday's vote "made it official." The commissioners also voted to approve about \$2.1 million for a new wastewater treatment plant, which is already under construction on Creamery Road. The \$2.1 million, according to Willet, is coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in the form of a \$1.1 million loan and a \$1 million grant. The town had to build a new plant to meet standards that are part of the state's effort to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Emmitsburg has one of the 67 largest wastewater treatment plants that did not meet the new state standards. The old plant was built in 1987 with a 40-year life expectancy. The new plant is expected to reduce the discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus into the upper Monocacy and Potomac rivers and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. The commissioners also heard a 2013 audit report, presented by Michele Mills, of Draper and McGinley Planning Group of Frederick. DesPres described the financial report as uneventful, with no major changes from the previous year's report.

MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

Poolesville plans to replace water lines critical to future development As Poolesville looks to grow and attract more businesses, future development along part of Fisher Avenue hinges on a new water line relocation project approved on Monday. The drainage pipes where the Dollar General and Boar's Head warehouse are slated to open are not big enough to support the development. Replacement of the pipes is necessary for development behind those businesses to remain an option in the future as well. A water main line along Fisher Avenue also must be moved down two feet for stormwater management updates, according to John Strong, Poolesville's town engineer. . "Nothing is going to happen — unless you move that water line down — on that whole side of town over there," Town Manager Wade Yost said. One 18-inch pipe must be replaced with two 21-inch pipes in the 9.2 acre drainage area. A separate eight-inch water main along Fisher Avenue must be moved down two feet to allow for grading and other stormwater management updates. The town commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to allocate \$45,000 to move the pipe and for other stormwater management updates.

Green Party candidate Willard wants to increase Montgomery's sustainability Although a first-time candidate for office, Tim Willard spent more than a quarter-century surrounded by the products generated by government. Now retired, Willard spent 26 years using his Ph.D. in history working at the National Archives. For much of that time, he worked in the declassification unit reviewing documents for items that may require them to stay classified. Much of the work was routine, but occasionally in sifting through the records you would find some "very good nuggets," Willard said.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWS

Is frackable shale gas under Calvert? This is the second of two letters to the editor regarding the Taylorsville Basin. The first appeared in the March 19 edition of The Calvert Recorder. Two buried basins (the Taylorsville and the Queen Anne), filled with ancient lake sediments, cross under northwest and southern Calvert County. These basins likely contain shale gas, potentially recoverable with modern "fracking" techniques, as discussed in the March 19 letter. Here's their backstory: They were formed when crust of the old supercontinent (Pangaea) first began to uplift, stretch and crack — from about 235 to 200 million years ago. Those ancient events were the labor pains preceding the birth of the modern Atlantic. The basins are often called Triassic because they formed during the Triassic period, early during the reign of dinosaurs. Climates were tropical. Where basin sediments, deposited in ancient lakes, are exposed in stream valleys or construction sites, some reveal the tracks of early dinosaurs crossing mud flats during drier intervals. Wetter climates brought deeper lakes with oxygen-starved bottom waters. Organic matter preserved in those sediments was later "cooked" to natural gas, trapped in shales and now identified as fracking targets. Some of the exposed basins contain seams of coal — mined in the Richmond Basin by English colonists already by 1703. The coals harbored trapped natural gas — which sometimes exploded, killing miners. The ancient lakes formed where long blocks of crust dropped along border faults. Our landscape 235-200 mega-annum resembled that of modern Nevada and the East African Rift. The lakes intermittently flooding these valleys were never deep, because erosion from nearby ridges kept pace with sinking valleys. It's been almost a half-century since plate tectonics was recognized as the process rafting continents around and sometimes splitting them apart. Continents resemble buoyant wooden rafts frozen into thick ice floes — the lithospheric plates. Roughly 175 mega-annum, the new Atlantic opened as an ever-

widening crack — a new plate boundary — separating North America from Africa. Before then, we were part of a vast supercontinent called Pangaea. The gas-rich Marcellus shale, underlying westernmost Maryland, was laid down 350 mega-annum in a shallow sea west of a mighty mountain range, whose roots are exposed in the Piedmont.

VIRGINIA

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

A multimillion-dollar challenge: rain At some point in the next year to 18 months, you may spot some reeds poking up along the western shore of Coliseum Lake — an early sign of an intensifying effort to keep rain from washing fish-, crab- and oyster-killing muck into the Chesapeake Bay. The newly rooted plants and a line of corrugated steel sheet piling that will stretch across the lake are part of a major new task that's falling on city and county governments across Virginia, and particularly heavily in Hampton Roads, where the bill over the next decade is likely to reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars. And that means a bill that ultimately falls on the people living in Virginia's cities and counties. "The simple answer is, the rules have changed and we are the ones to have to deal with that, as best as we can," said Everett Skipper, Newport News' city engineer. The more complicated answer, Weston Young, Hampton's stormwater project manager said, is that a lot of the nitty gritty of those new state rules depend on computer models and estimates. Much of what the state wants local governments to do to keep rain from carrying pollutants into Virginia's waters — from building new wetlands to digging new retention ponds to using more plants to filter water as it soaks into the ground — is based on models that predict set reductions in what eventually flows into the bay or other Virginia watersheds. The problem is, the models don't really tell cities and counties exactly what they need to do to clean up runoff. They just set a numerical target that theory says represents good health for the state's waterways. "It's the difference between saying, 'don't eat that hamburger' and saying, 'your cholesterol must be below 162,'" Skipper said. Perhaps the biggest challenge, Young added, is that Hampton Roads communities, unlike the rest of the state, have to cope with water that moves in two directions. Streams and creeks and ditches flow into the bay, and tides push the bay up those same waterways. "We're different from the rest of the state," he said. Hampton Roads is flat, which means flood water doesn't flow easily. Standing water on a busy intersection here is a safety hazard, as any driver whose car has hydroplaned knows. Water stagnating in a ditch breeds mosquitoes, a health hazard.

WVTF - PUBLIC RADIO VIRGINIA

Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Proves Challenging

Leaders of Virginia's largest organization representing farmers say they were "startled" when state Attorney General Mark Herring filed an amicus brief supporting the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan that's being challenged in federal court. The American Farm Bureau Federation had challenged the multi-state agreement, saying the federal Clean Water Act gives individual states—NOT the Environmental Protection Agency—the authority to determine how to curtail pollutants and clean up the water. A U.S. District court has upheld the plan, which is estimated to cost residents 15-billion dollars. Twenty-one state attorneys general joined the Bureau to appeal the lower court ruling. Herring disagrees, and said when the most promising plan to protect and

restore the bay comes under attack, he would stand up for the health of Virginia's families, and for the state's economic interests and efforts to restore the bay. But the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Wilmer Stoneman says farmers want to work with the state on Bay clean-up. "What we're opposed to is a dictatorial approach from the federal government—more specifically, EPA. There's a Chesapeake Bay agreement. They're part of the agreement, and we're of the belief that that means we are to work cooperatively—not in a dictatorial role." Stoneman says the EPA is acting as an enforcer—not a partner—and its model does not accurately reflect the farmers' nutrient-management plans and progress. "The frustration for farmers is at the moment we get ready to reach the brass ring or grab the ball, it's moved just a few more inches down the way." He says farmers play a role in Virginia's largest industry—and the state should work with them to achieve these goals.

DANVILLE REGISTER & BEE

Coal ash spill effects not yet known DANVILLE — It's too soon to gauge the long-term effects of the Feb. 2 coal ash spill on fish in the Dan River, said Virginia and North Carolina regulatory officials during presentations Monday afternoon. Since the incident at Duke Energy's old Dan River Steam Station in Eden, N.C., occurred in the winter — when there was little biological activity by fish in the Dan River — there was no way for monitoring immediately after the incident to pick up trace-element effects in the river's fish, said John Kennedy, director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Ecology and Infrastructure. The VDEQ plans to conduct long-term monitoring of fish tissue at eight locations along the Dan River over the next three to five years, June through August, Kennedy said. Kennedy and Dianne Reid, water sciences section chief with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Water Resources, gave brief presentations during a meeting of the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission. The meeting was held at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. "We'll wait until [feeding activity] picks up in a warmer season of the year," Kennedy said during an interview after the presentations. There was little biological activity — such as foraging, bottom feeding and predators feeding — among fish in the cold months when the spill happened, Kennedy said. Reid, during her presentation, said it was too soon to determine the spill's effects on fish. The VDEQ collected water and sediment samples on Feb. 11 — nine days after the coal ash spill that spewed 39,000 tons of the toxic brew into the Dan River — at four sites along the river, Kennedy said. The department analyzed water samples for 23 metals and those levels did not exceed Virginia water quality standards, he said during the presentation. This content was contributed by a user of the site. If you believe this content may be in violation of the terms of use, you may report it as abuse of the site._

FREDERICKSBURG FREELANCE STAR

Backing the Bay ATTORNEY GENERAL Mark Herring has put Virginia on the side of the Chesapeake Bay's true defenders, filing an amicus curiae, or friend-of-the-court, brief in support of the EPA's "pollution diet"—the agency's prescription for returning the bay to good health. If the term "amicus curiae" sounds familiar, it's because another one was filed a couple of months ago, by the attorneys general for 21 states near and far, who take issue with the EPA program. Why? Not because of any particular interest in the bay's situation, but because if the plan actually works, they fear the EPA could show up with a similar plan targeting pollution in their jurisdictions. So they're out to nip that in the bud. All these briefs are being attached to a lawsuit filed by the American Farm Bureau and others challenging the EPA plan, which sets total daily

maximum loads, or TDMLs, for sediment and nutrient pollution entering the bay. A U.S. District Court judge ruled in favor of the EPA last fall, calling the plan justified under the Clean Water Act of 1972. The AFB and its cohorts promptly appealed to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. Mr. Herring's brief helps put the entire bay cleanup saga in perspective, explaining how Virginia and the Chesapeake are intertwined economically, environmentally, culturally and historically. Herring puts the bay's commercial and recreational fishing value to Virginia at \$3.6 billion and 54,000 jobs, plus another \$680 million realized in pure tourism. Mr. Herring also let it be known that the previous administration's opinion of the EPA no longer applies in Virginia. Though it continued to provide state cleanup funding, the McDonnell administration was no advocate of EPA regulatory powers, preferring the status quo voluntary technique that has left the cleanup effort treading water for the past 30 years._

LYNCHBURG NEWS AND ADVANCE

Randolph named one of 332 Green Colleges Randolph College was named one of the 332 most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S. and Canada, by The Princeton Review. The fifth edition of "The Princeton Review's Guide to 332 Green Colleges" was published last week. Randolph College is one of 14 colleges in Virginia recognized, including Virginia Tech, University of Virginia, University of Richmond and the College of William and Mary. Schools were chosen based a 2013 survey of administrators at hundreds of four-year colleges to measure the schools' commitment to the environment and to sustainability.

STAUNTON NEWS LEADER

River, its lessons, beckon Cait Wood was eager to get into the water on Tuesday morning. She'd been learning about water-related concepts in her advanced environmental science class — and as she and her classmates prepared to launch their canoes into the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, she was ready to see some of those concepts embodied. "We have been studying the acidity of the water and how it can affect the plants and animals," said Wood, a 16-year-old junior at Riverheads High School, as she gazed out at the softly flowing rapids on a warm and cloudy day. Wood was among 19 students from Courtney Hallacher's advanced environmental science class at Riverheads High School who paddled a five-mile stretch of the South Fork on Tuesday. They departed at about 10 a.m. from Riverbank Farm in Rockingham County, and traveled northward until about 2 p.m. The expedition was led by Allan Thomson and Erin Eberstein of the Virginia Watershed Education Program. Thomson is the manager of the program, and Eberstein is the assistant manager. The program is part of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The field trip took place on Earth Day, and it gave students the chance to study water quality issues as they paddled and floated through the South Fork. As the group prepared for the trip on Tuesday, Thomson noted that students would be discussing industrial discharge and agricultural runoff during the day. He mentioned the proximity of industrial plants and farms. "There are couple of access points where the cows come down to the river to drink," he said, noting that those cows might also leave manure in the area as they sip from the river. "That adds to the nutrient load in the river," he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (VA.)

After 3-year slide, Chesapeake Bay grasses rebound RICHMOND -- Scientists say an indicator of the Chesapeake Bay's health — underwater grasses — has reversed a three-year downward trend. The Chesapeake Bay Program released its annual report on underwater grasses on

Monday. The program says the abundance of underwater grasses increased 24 percent between 2012 and 2013. Underwater grasses are considered critical to the bay ecosystem because they offer food to small invertebrates and migratory birds and shelter for young fish and blue crabs. The increase in aquatic vegetation reflects the rapid expansion of a type called widgeongrass in saltier waters of the mid-bay. Eelgrass also saw a modest recovery. The Chesapeake Bay Program is the regional partnership leading the restoration of the bay. Its partner states include Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. Washington, D.C., is also a partner.

Dominion touts power from waste coal at Va. plant ST. PAUL -- Dominion Virginia Power says its power plant in Wise County has used nearly 1.1 million tons of waste coal since it began operating in July 2012. The Richmond-based energy provider says Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center near St. Paul uses waste coal from old mining operations as fuel for the power station. Dominion says the waste coal, also called "gob," is piled along streams and rivers in Southwest Virginia. It is mostly rock and lower-quality coal. About 80 percent of the gob used at the station has come from Virginia. In addition to waste coal, the power station also is designed to be able to burn waste wood from timbering operations. Officials are hoping to ramp up use of that renewable biomass as fuel at the facility.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Duke Energy Says Managing Coal Ash at N.C. Sites to Cost Billions Managing coal ash at Duke Energy's 14 sites in North Carolina is likely to cost between \$2 billion and \$10 billion, depending on what is required, a utility representative tells a state legislative oversight committee. According to Paul Newton, Duke Energy's North Carolina state president, the cost of actions the company has already proposed to take has been estimated at \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion.

Six Cities Back EPA Defense of Chesapeake Bay TMDL Plan Six of the nation's major cities—Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco—say the Chesapeake Bay's total maximum daily load plan is equitable because it addresses all sources of pollution, not just easily regulated point sources. The cities also say the approach taken in the 2010 TMDL plan is "holistic" because it specifies pollutant loads arising from both point and nonpoint sources in the Bay watershed.

Senate Lobbying Records Show Interest in Carbon Rules, EPA Veto Powers At least 17 organizations disclosed lobbying on the social cost of carbon during the first quarter of 2014, Senate public records show, indicating consistent interest in the issue on Capitol Hill by energy companies and business entities. More » ... Representatives of the mining industry, water management officials and environmental advocacy groups are at work to protect or repeal the EPA's veto authority for dredge-and-fill permits, Senate records show. More » ... At least 110 companies, ranging from large publicly traded companies to small regional organizations, report

lobbying Congress in the first quarter of 2014 in some form on the EPA carbon emission standards for power plants.

EPA Sends Carbon Dioxide Proposal for Modified Plants to OMBThe EPA sends a proposed rule that would regulate carbon dioxide emissions from modified and reconstructed power plants to the White House Office of Management and Budget for review, typically the final step before a publication in the Federal Register. The EPA proposed new source performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions from new fossil fuel-fired power plants in January, but that rule did not address modified or reconstructed plants.

Justice Department Touts Defense of EPA Greenhouse Gas Regulations The Justice Department issues a report pointing to its legal defenses of greenhouse gas rules as highlights of fiscal 2013 for the department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. Prominent among those legal fights was a challenge to the EPA attempt to expand greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles to stationary sources such as power plants.

Shimkus Releases Revised TSCA Reform Bill; April 29 Hearing PlannedThe House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy will hold a hearing April 29 on a revised draft version of the Chemicals in Commerce Act. Subcommittee Chairman Shimkus releases a new draft that, compared with the version circulated in February, would expand the EPA's ability to obtain information about chemicals if current data are insufficient for the agency to determine whether a particular compound or group of chemicals is a low or high priority for risk evaluations. The new draft also provides states greater authority to oversee chemical safety.

GREENWIRE

CHESAPEAKE BAY: Underwater grasses reappearing after 3-year decline Underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers are recovering in a partial turnaround of a three-year decline, researchers said yesterday. Aquatic vegetation -- a key indicator of health in the bay -- increased 24 percent last year, according to aerial surveys. The 59,927 acres detected represents around a third of the goal set by state and federal authorities, who seek to restore grasses near the levels of 50 or 60 years ago. Virginia Institute of Marine Science biologist Robert Orth, a survey coordinator, said the growth last year was "a good recovery from what we've been seeing in the previous three years, but it still is far off from our high point" in 2002 of almost 90,000 acres.

EPA: Another Earth Day, and still no Cabinet status for leading U.S. enviro agency President George H.W. Bush in 1990 asked Congress to send him a bill elevating the U.S. EPA chief to Cabinet level by Earth Day. Two dozen Earth Days later, it still hasn't happened. Despite some initial rumblings from outside groups when President Obama took over the office, the issue has largely fallen by the wayside. Given EPA's current status as a lightning rod for political attacks, environmental activists and former EPA officials who have pushed for the change in the past aren't holding out much hope of seeing a Secretary Gina McCarthy during this administration.

Proponents of including EPA's administrator in the Cabinet argue that keeping the post as a sub-Cabinet job sends the wrong signal to other countries and makes it too easy to sideline the EPA chief. They think the environment deserves as much respect as other top-level government priorities -- like education, health care and agriculture.

BIOFUELS: EPA mandate will face legal challenges, industry group warns The Advanced Biofuels Association warned U.S. EPA yesterday that it will face legal challenges if it fails to increase this year's mandate for advanced biofuels. EPA has proposed requiring refiners to use 2.21 billion ethanol-equivalent gallons of advanced biofuels this year in a rule that is scheduled to be finalized in June. The number is below last year's actual production of 3.23 billion gallons and flies in the face of a court ruling last year that found EPA could not use the annual target-setting exercise to unduly influence the market, Advanced Biofuels Association President Michael McAdams told a crowd of industry supporters yesterday. "You're suable if you put any number below 3.23 billion in because the courts have specifically said to you, you can't put your thumb on the scale to push this industry," McAdams said. "Well, you can't put your thumb on our head and push us down, either." The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit last year found that EPA's methodology in calculating how much cellulosic biofuel could be produced in 2012 was not accurate enough. The agency displayed a "special tilt" toward promoting the growth of the industry that was not consistent with statute, the ruling found.

COAL: Obama admin set to unveil controversial black lung rule The Obama administration is poised to release new rules to protect coal miners from black lung disease amid strong opposition from industry groups. The Department of Labor will make a formal announcement tomorrow in West Virginia of rules expected to reduce the amount of respirable coal dust that miners can be exposed to. The department's Mine Safety and Health Administration has been working on the rules for several years. The proposed final standards have been under review by the White House Office of Management and Budget since last year. Coal mining companies, plus the National Mining Association, have questioned the wisdom of MSHA's proposed standards and whether the administration's research is sound.

Apple will offer free recycling at stores The world's largest technology company has laid out plans to become more environmentally friendly just in time for Earth Day. Apple Inc. announced yesterday it is now recycling all its used products at no cost to consumers and promised to power all its stores, offices and data centers with renewable energy to offset its carbon footprint. Apple has sold more than 1 billion iPhones, iPods, iPads and Mac computers in the past seven years, and the devices shouldn't go into landfills because they contain toxins. The company said all its stores now will recycle used products, and it will offer gift cards in exchange for some of the more valuable ones. Apple will also continue to transition company facilities to alternative energy sources, especially at Apple's data centers, which demand vast amounts of electricity to power electronic storage (*Greenwire*, April 14). "What the company wants to do is use all our innovation and all of our expertise to make the planet more secure and make the environment better," said Lisa Jackson, Apple's vice president of environmental initiatives and former U.S. EPA secretary. Jackson said she wants consumers using Apple products to "feel comfortable that they are not adding any carbon pollution to the atmosphere"

Small leak reported at W.Va. DuPont plant Employees at a DuPont Co. chemical plant in Belle,

W.Va., reported a small chemical leak yesterday, officials said. The workers reported a release of a chemical called N,N-dimethylacetamide, or DMAC, according to emergency officials. The chemical is used to prepare other materials for industrial applications and has a faint ammonialike odor, according to its material safety data sheet. Kelley Gillenwater, a spokeswoman for the state's Department of Environmental Protection, said more than a pound but not a "large amount" of the chemical leaked from the facility before being stopped by the facility's secondary containment system. The company said it was investigating the cause of the accident

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biofuel falls short as an alternative, researchers report (April 20) WASHINGTON -- Biofuels made from the leftovers of harvested corn plants are worse than gasoline for global warming in the short term, a study shows, challenging the Obama administration's conclusions that they are a much cleaner oil alternative and will help combat climate change. A \$500,000 study paid for by the federal government and released Sunday in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Climate Change concludes that biofuels made with corn residue release 7 percent more greenhouse gases in the early years compared with conventional gasoline.

LA TIMES

Fracking expert Mark Zoback: We need good science, good engineering, good regulation and good enforcement"Fracking" — now there's a word that just begs for a bumper sticker. Short for "hydraulic fracturing" — the process of breaking open rock with high-pressure liquids to get at otherwise untappable oil and natural gas — fracking conjures up a welcome energy boom for some, ecological disaster for others. Mark Zoback — Stanford geophysicist since 1984, member of the National Academy of Engineering's Deepwater Horizon investigation committee, personal "decarbonizer," fracking expert — sees the problems and the potential for California. Zoback's bumper sticker might read something like this: "Fracking — Do it, but do it right." Fracking California's Monterey Shale, in the San Joaquin Valley, is looking like a second Gold Rush. It's early days. There's probably a lot of oil that could be extracted, but operating in California is complicated by the regulatory environment, by the geology, by public acceptance, by population density in some places. California is a varied landscape. We need a regulatory system that's adaptable to those conditions, and an industry that recognizes that while it's perfectly safe, reasonable and straightforward to operate in some regions, it might be difficult in others.